



DRISCOLL ISLAND WILDLIFE AREA 2009 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Land Management Summary



A view looking north from Driscoll Island
Photo: Dale Swedberg

This is an update to the 2008 Driscoll Island Wildlife Area Management Plan http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/driscoll/index.htm that provides management direction for the Driscoll Island Wildlife Area, a part of the Sinlahekin, Driscoll Island and Chiliwist Wildlife Area Complex, located about a mile south of Oroville in Okanogan County. The plan identifies needs and guides activities on the area based on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Mission of “*Sound Stewardship of Fish and Wildlife*” and its underlying statewide goals and

Plans are updated annually as habitat and species conditions change, as new regulations and scientific knowledge develop, as public issues and concerns evolve, and as administration of wildlife areas change. This management plan update also includes 2008 accomplishments, new issues, new land management strategies and performance measures for 2009.

Updates/Changes

An assistant was hired in July to help in day-to-day operations of Driscoll Island.

New Issues

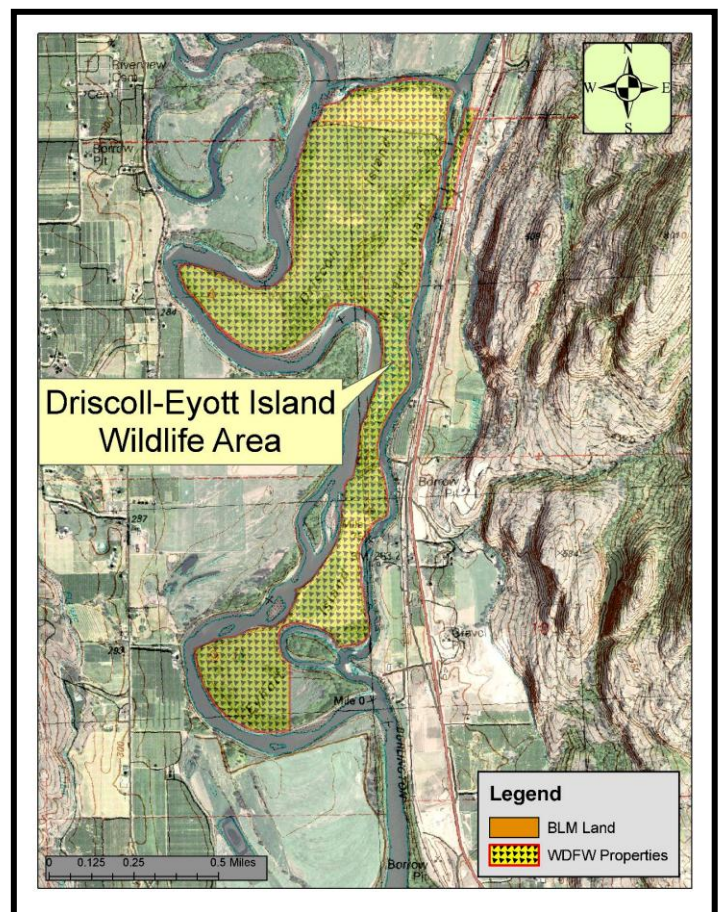
The Agricultural Lease on the island has been updated and approved.

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A view of the Van Poole Homestead on the northeast end of Driscoll Island
Photo: D. Swedberg

A map of the wildlife area



Major Stewardship Accomplishments

Sprayed Russian knapweed throughout Driscoll Island, and continued to control plumeless thistle on the north end of the island.

Inventoried structures and noted integrity issues on the north end of the island for the purpose of preserving their historical value.

Status Report of 2008 Performance Measures

Key performance measures are identified each year to monitor progress and identify any issues that might interfere with planned priority activities. This information will be used to delete, add or alter priority strategies for 2009.

2008 Performance Measure	Status of Performance Measure	Explanation of Progress/ 2009 Related Activity/ Comments
GPS and GIS map of all Dalmatian toadflax, plumeless thistle, Russian knapweed and common tansy infestations and Russian olive trees	Completed	
Continue weed control efforts using chemicals, hand pulling and biological control methods	Completed	Sprayed significant amount of Russian knapweed and pulled all known plumeless thistle.
Remove all old scrap iron and metal	Inadequate time to accomplish	
Maintain shrub planting irrigation system	Incomplete	
Assess survival of shrubs and replace shrubs that died	Inadequate time to complete	Attempt to get this completed in 2009
Complete sharecropper agricultural lease renewal before expiration	Completed	
Grid for weeds on 100 acres	Completed	
Complete and/or review and update plans including WA plan, weed plan, and fire management plan	Completed	

New Strategies

The wildlife area plan identifies many strategies or activities to address the agencies strategic plan goals and objectives, why the area was purchased, habitat conditions, species presence, and public issues and concerns.

No new strategies were or have been identified.

2009 Performance Measures

Performance measures for the Driscoll Island Wildlife Area are listed below. Accomplishments and progress toward desired outcomes will be monitored and evaluated annually.

- 1) Grid for weeds on 100 acres.
- 2) Complete mapping via GPS not completed in 2008. Produce a comprehensive GIS map.
- 3) Assess shrub survival planted for 1998-2002 WHIP project and replace shrubs that died.
- 4) Check and maintain shrub watering system.
- 5) Continue to seek funding for bridge and trail system on Driscoll Island.
- 6) Remove old scrap iron and metal debris from wildlife area.
- 7) Spray all known Russian knapweed infestation locations.



A panorama view of the south and eastern part of Driscoll Island across the Okanogan River channel (Spring 2006). Note dead cottonwoods from a wildfire in April of 2003.

Photo: D. Swedberg



A view looking toward the west down the Similkimeen River

Photo: D. Swedberg

Citizens Advisory Group Input

An East Okanogan County Citizens Advisory Group meeting was held on February 26, 2009 to review Sinlahekin, Driscoll Island, Chiliwist and Scotch Creek Management Plans, management progress and address any new issues or

input on existing issues. The attendance was disappointingly low with only five people attending in addition to four WDFW representatives. Those in attendance included representatives from

The Back Country Horsemen, Oroville Sports Club, Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District, and two private citizens interested in the management of the Sinlahekin, Driscoll Island and Chiliwist Wildlife Areas.

The following new input/issues were addressed at the meeting.

There were no new input/issues provided or raised.

Want to see the full plan?

Go to -

http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/index.htm

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